

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 AID-05

IGA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-05 L-03 /080 W

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R 140725Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1910

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL MUSCAT 0276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MU, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE US NAVAL TRAINING FOR OMAN

REF: STATE 033530

1. RECENT DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT WITH FONMIN ZAWAII (MAINLY TO KEEP HIM INFORMED) AND WITH DEPUTY DEFMIN SAYYID FAHAR WERE INCONCLUSIVE. BOTH, HOWEVER, APPEARED TO WELCOME AMBASSADOR'S STRONG SUGGESTION THAT OMAN EXPLORE WITH THE SAUDIS THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A FEW SLOTS IN SNEP. FAHAR SAID HE WOULD RAISE THIS THOUGHT WITH THE SULTAN.

2. NEW DG FOR DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION ROBERT BROWNING, WHO IS BRITISH EX-DIPLOMAT REPLACING FORMER DG SEMPLE, HAS INHERITED DEFMIN'S FILE ON THIS MATTER. HE ADMITTED THAT OVER PAST SEVEN MONTHS THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND OMANI NAVY COMBINED HAVE MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER ONLY FIVE BIO/QUALIFICATION FILES ON POTENTIAL NAVAL TRAINEES. BROWNING SHOWED REAL INTEREST IN THE MATTER PLUS SOME EMBARRASSMENT AT SLOW WAY IN WHICH DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS PURSUED THE TOPIC. EMBASSY MAY, THEREFORE, THOROUGH FOLLOWUPS WITH HIM IN COMING WEEKS, BE ABLE TO FORCE THE PACE A LITTLE. PERHAPS IN THE PROCESS WE SHALL BEGIN TO LEARN WHETHER THE

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OMANIS TRULY AREINTERESTED IN OUR ASSISTANCE OR WHETHER, WHEN

IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, THEY (OR SOME OF THEIR EXPATRIATES)
ARE RELUCTANT TO SEE THE USG AND US NAVY GAIN THIS SORT OF
"FOOTHOLD"--MINUSCULE THOUGH IT MAY BE--AT THE EXPENSE OF
THEIR TRADITIONAL AND COMFORTABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LONDON
AND THE ROYAL NAVY.

WOLLE

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